

assertion which may surprise you. The miraculous birth of Jesus was an absolute necessity. There could be no salvation for sinners otherwise. To prove this we must go back to the creation.

"It is a big subject, but we must necessarily be brief. Let us fix in our minds firmly, the conviction that the Bible is the Word of God. It is truth, graciously given that we may know things we could not otherwise know." "Canst thou, by searching, find out God?" is a question asked by Him and answered in the negative by the greatest intellects of all ages of the world, who tried to find God without a revelation from Him. So we gladly accept His word. When God created man He gave him the world with all its vast opportunities, its marvelous resources, all to be his. With this He gave him a nobler gift—free will. With everything that heart could wish God made but one reservation, 'The Tree of the knowledge of good and evil,' he was told not to touch and that death was to be the penalty of disobedience. No doubt Adam and Eve were perfectly satisfied and happy. They had no thought of doing what was forbidden until the tempter, the slanderer, the great enemy of mankind, came and with a sneer, asked, "Yea, hath God said ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" insinuating that they had been unjustly treated by being denied that fruit. Eve answered with dignity, 'We may eat of all except that one tree.' The tempter showed sympathy for them and getting bolder flatly contradicted God's word, ye shall not surely die. Perhaps the most subtle and dangerous temptations are those that have a little truth mixed with the error. He may have represented truly that the fruit was not poisonous and would not kill them the day they ate it. Then he fortified his position by saying that, 'God knows that it will make you wise.' He first lowered their reverence for God. "The only truth he uttered had no bearing on the subject, for the quality of the fruit had nothing to do with the fall. Disobedience was the sin of our first parents. It included a weak listening to temptation, a lack of trust in God's loving-kindness, a doubt of God's truthfulness, believing the word of the Father of lies and doing what he suggested. Thus they rejected their Creator and gave their allegiance to the Tempter, for 'ye are servants to whom ye obey.' God did not mean that they would die the death of the body the day they ate the forbidden fruit, but the hour they sinned by disobeying God they were under the condemnation of death, which they had been warned was the penalty for disobedience. Adam stood for the whole race of mankind, so every child of Adam is under the same condemnation. As soon as Adam, with his own free will, rejected God and gave his allegiance to Satan, Satan claimed the whole human race as his and the earth upon which they lived, and he has been striving ever since to gain actual possession of every soul. How could any be saved? Only by a substitute fulfilling the law perfectly and bearing the death penalty for the human race, thus meeting the just demands of a holy law. Who was sufficient for this? No mere man, however holy his life might be, for he was under condemnation himself. God so loved the world—the beings He had created—that He gave His only son. The second person of the God-head offered himself. He, being infinite, was sufficient, but the law demanded that man should die, so he must take upon himself the true, perfect human nature, but it must be without the inherited sin of Adam. Was it any greater miracle to create a true human sinless body and soul than to create man in the first place? Who

dares limit God's power? Thus Jesus came to earth, lived his sinless life, doing good to all, suffered contempt and scorn, rejected by many illegally tried, hired false witnesses testified against him, unlawfully sentenced to a death of agony, meant only for the vilest of sinners. All this and more than we can ever understand to satisfy the law and make it possible for sinners to be saved—forgiven. Then he arose by his own power as God to show that the redemption price had been paid and ascended to heaven in the sight of many reliable witnesses, and yet there are some poor deluded human beings who boast of their wisdom in rejecting him.

"Why was his coming so long delayed? We know not. How were pious persons saved before the coming of Christ?"

Ralph promptly answered in the simple, but all-sufficient words of the 'Child's Catechism,' "By believing on a Saviour to come."

"This brings us to the difficulty your street-lecturer found in believing the Bible account of the divinity of Christ, that there have been found traditions in many lands where the Bible is unknown of a God-man who did many wonderful things. Just so. It could hardly be otherwise. Immediately after Adam's fall God made known to him his plan of salvation for the whole human race. This was preached all down the ages and many thousands believed and were saved. While many rejected and were lost, as it is at the present time. Those lingering traditions distorted as they may be by ignorance and superstition still bear witness to the truth of the Bible.

LOOKING FOR HOME.

Long years ago, when little children were not as well looked after as they are now, a small, homeless boy was trudging over the rough, hilly country just beyond a little village. He had just one wish in his heart, and that was for a home. If only he could find some one that wanted a little boy, he would try to be very good and helpful.

A noise made him raise his head. There came a flock of sheep pattering up the hill. They were fat, well-cared for sheep, and the boy knew they had run away from some one who took good care of them. Now, Otto had taken care of sheep with the master he used to live with, so he caught up a long stick and gently turned the sheep into a small, green vale. They were a bit frightened of him at first, but after awhile they began nibbling at the short, dry grass. It was late in the year, and there wasn't much food on the hills for them.

"I ought to get them home," said Otto, looking at the sky with wise eyes. "There'll be a snowstorm before long, and if they're out they may be frozen before they're found."

Then Otto saw another boy coming up the mountainside, whistling. "Do you know whose sheep these are?" asked Otto.

"Yes; they belong to Dame Freda, down in the white farmhouse yonder," said the boy. "Her husband is from home, and she'll not know how to get them back, but I've no time to bother with them."

And he went on. But Otto gathered his flock in a close group, and then turned the leader toward the white farm-house. Slowly and patiently he drove them along. They were a little afraid of him, because he was a stranger, but he was careful not to frighten them. It was growing very cold and the first flakes of snow were falling, so he knew it was time to get the sheep in. To his joy he was able to drive them in through the gates of

the farmyard and then into the sheepfold, after which he shut the door.

When Dame Freda found that her sheep were gone, because the careless boy who had been helping her had left the gate open, she did not know what to do. She had no one to send, and she did not know enough about sheep to go after them. She kept looking out of the window, hoping she would see some neighbor she could send. Then, at length, when she looked out she saw the runaway flock coming back, and a small boy driving them. She watched while he drove them into the fold. "What a fine little boy," she said. "How gentle and patient he is. I wish he belonged to me."

Then she went to the farmyard and called to him. "Little boy," she said, "do you think you could give the sheep their hay? Afterward come in and have supper with me. I have a fine stew cooking."

How gladly Otto pulled down the hay to feed the sheep! Then, when he entered the big, warm kitchen, he saw Dame Freda just setting the delicious stew on the table.

What a fine supper he had. Dame Freda kept telling him to take more, and saying what a fine boy he was to help her so.

"And where are you going to stay the night, my child?" she asked.

"I don't know," said Otto. "I have no home."

"No home?" said Dame Freda. "You need never say that again, little one, for now this is your home and you are my own little boy. Take an apple, son Otto, and sit up by the fire, while I go to make the little bed ready for you."

And so Otto found his home and people to love him.—Elsie Vernon, in *The Christian Standard*.

TWO FACES.

Have you ever seen a person with two faces? I have seen such people. These strange folks can change their faces whenever they wish.

One girl I met first at Sunday-school and again when visiting among her friends. The face she had on at these times was sweet and kind, so that I thought her a very pretty girl. I supposed that she always wore such a face, for people are expected to have only one face. But one day I went to her home, and she had on a face that was so ugly and cross-looking that I hardly knew her. She changed so quickly, but not before I saw it. If she had worn that face out in company, no one would have liked her; but I learned that it was her home face.

A little boy I know has the finest face, all smiles and sunshine whenever he can have his own way. But just let some one cross him in anything, and instantly he puts on a face covered over with pouts and frowns. And he will wear that ugly face until we all are very tired of it.

Another boy I know had one face that he used when he worked and a different face that he wore when he played. His work face was long and all corners of the mouth were drawn down. It made him look very unhappy, and to look at him made his mother sad. But his play face, which he put on when he could play ball or go fishing, was so round and smiling that you would think him the happiest boy anywhere.

I know a man who had two faces when he was a boy, but now he has just one, and it is the ugly face. That is the way all these two-faced people get. I would rather have just one smiling face and wear it all the time.—*The Presbyterian*.